

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT
523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182

**Career Connector Community Engagement and Supplemental
Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training
Services**

Questions and Responses #1

PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 4, 2020 5:00PM CST

RFP # 2148

BUYER: Division of
Economic Assistance

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Note: The question submission deadline is October 7th with responses no later than October 14th. However, the Division of Economic Assistance believes it is in the best interests of all to provide information as soon as possible. Depending on the number of and nature of further questions there may be another early response.

On the 14th all questions and responses will be incorporated into one document.

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1. If a vendor offers both Career Connector and SNAP services, can clients from these two programs be mixed when receiving group services such as employment classes?

Yes, recipients of each service type may attend training opportunities together. Confidentiality remains a requirement as not to have participant identify their "reason for participation" (IE SNAP, Medicaid, etc.). It is probable that each recipient group will have similar service needs, but also unique program requirements.

2. Does the state intend to maintain a voluntary Career Connector program if the federal waiver is approved? Or will all Career Connector clients be mandated to participate once the waiver is obtained?

Upon receiving federal approval for the Career Connector program, all voluntary participants will become mandatory participants.

3. Does DSS have an estimate on when the federal waiver will be approved?

DSS continues to work with CMS on completing the approval. A timeline has not been established for completion. The state will have a 90 day ramp up period after approval to prepare for the mandatory program.

4. The RFP provides data on the anticipated client numbers for the Career Connector and SNAP programs. Can DSS provide an estimation of how much overlap there is between the two groups? In other words, can you estimate how many anticipated clients belong to both groups?

There should be no cross participation. Customers required to participate in the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program are exempt from participation in the Career Connector program. There may be times when a customer meets an exemption for the E&T program and then moves to the Career Connector program.

5. Attachment C indicates an expectation for tracking client outcomes for 12 months after they complete program services. Does DSS expect that the contractor will do all of that tracking? If so, will DSS assist with client contact information such as change of address, phone, name, etc.? Will the contractor be judged on this longitudinal data even if long-term contact with clients cannot be maintained?

No, the selected vendor is not required to track outcomes 12 months after completion of program services. The outcomes mentioned in Attachment C are available through a database maintained by the Department of Social Services. However, in the event the vendor would want to track these individuals beyond the measures in attachment C, DSS would be willing to share all available information to assist in this effort. Additionally, although the vendor is not required to maintain contact with customers, the vendor may have their performance assessed based on their performance in reporting measures outlined in Attachment C.

6. On page 9, Section 3.3, Program Reporting, it says that the contractor must "...track and maintain the number of ABAWD months used over a 36 month period. ABAWDs are limited to 3 months of SNAP eligibility in a 36 month period, unless they are meeting the ABAWD work requirement. Therefore, this tracking capability is essential to program operation." Does this mean that the contractor is expected to track clients' SNAP usage for 36 months, even if they are not currently enrolled in services? Would this not simply duplicate DSS's own records? Or does it mean that the contractor must ensure that clients are eligible for SNAP services when they are enrolled in the program? Would this not be a more appropriately a DSS responsibility, since DSS already has this data? Will DSS regularly provide the contractor with SNAP usage data, or must the contractor attempt to collect this data directly from clients?

The tracking and maintenance of the ABAWD time limit capability ultimately rests on with the selected vendor. Currently, the DSS system does provide for the tracking of this data, however, at the time of the release and due to a variety of technological factors it is not a certainty that the DSS system will be able to be leveraged with the selected vendor. Therefore, in the event the DSS system is unable to be utilized for this purpose, the vendor should have the ability to track the ABAWD time limit and meet all other reporting requirements.